

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 9-13 will be all the claims pending in the application.

New Claims 11-13 are supported by the application as originally filed, including the original claims. No new matter has been added.

The Action mailed October 6, 2003, contains the following prior art rejections:

Claims 1-2, 5, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 0 633 291 ("EP '291");

Claims 1-2, 4, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,721,282 ("the '282 Patent"); and

Claims 3-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP '291.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections.

EP '291 discloses a mixture of fluoropolymers used for the inner tube of a Bowden. The material comprises PTFE and polyphenylene sulfide. PTFE is not thermoplastic.

The '282 Patent discloses a mixture based on a fluoropolymer and at least one polymer. The fluoropolymer may be a fluorothermoplastic. In order to foam this material, a polymer containing sulfoxide groups, *e.g.*, polyarylene sulfoxide, is added to the fluoropolymer.

Present Claim 1 is directed to a polymer mixture consisting of, *inter alia*, (a) at least one resin selected from the group consisting of FEP and ETFE, which are thermoplastic fluoropolymers. PTFE, on the other hand, is not thermoplastic.

Claim 1 further recites (b) at least one resin selected from the group consisting of PPS, PSU, and PES, which are each sulfur-containing materials that make it possible for the claimed mixture to remain thermoplastic.

AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 10/067,406

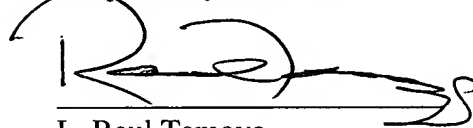
Thermoplastic materials can be formed by an extrusion process.

The polymer mixture of Claim 1 is for an insulating layer on an electric line or for a sheath for electrical cables or lines.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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